

rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 795, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 162]

YEAS—409

Abercrombie	Davis (CA)	Hulshof
Ackerman	Davis (FL)	Hunter
Aderholt	Davis (IL)	Hyde
Akin	Davis (KY)	Inglis (SC)
Alexander	Davis (TN)	Inslee
Allen	Davis, Jo Ann	Israel
Andrews	Deal (GA)	Issa
Baca	DeFazio	Istook
Bachus	DeGette	Jackson (IL)
Baird	Delahunt	Jackson-Lee
Baker	DeLauro	(TX)
Baldwin	DeLay	Jefferson
Barrett (SC)	Dent	Jenkins
Barrow	Diaz-Balart, L.	Jindal
Bartlett (MD)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Johnson (CT)
Barton (TX)	Dicks	Johnson (IL)
Bass	Dingell	Johnson, E. B.
Bean	Doggett	Johnson, Sam
Beauprez	Doolittle	Jones (NC)
Becerra	Doyle	Jones (OH)
Berkley	Drake	Kanjorski
Berry	Dreier	Kaptur
Biggart	Duncan	Keller
Bilirakis	Edwards	Kelly
Bishop (GA)	Ehlers	Kennedy (MN)
Bishop (NY)	Emanuel	Kildee
Bishop (UT)	Emerson	Kilpatrick (MI)
Blackburn	Engel	Kind
Blumenauer	English (PA)	King (IA)
Blunt	Eshoo	King (NY)
Boehlert	Etheridge	Kingston
Boehner	Everett	Kirk
Bonilla	Farr	Kline
Bonner	Fattah	Knollenberg
Bono	Feeney	Kucinich
Boozman	Ferguson	Kuhl (NY)
Boren	Filner	LaHood
Boswell	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Langevin
Boucher	Foley	Lantos
Boustany	Forbes	Larsen (WA)
Boyd	Ford	Latham
Bradley (NH)	Fortenberry	LaTourette
Brady (PA)	Fossella	Lee
Brady (TX)	Fox	Levin
Brown (OH)	Frank (MA)	Lewis (CA)
Brown (SC)	Frelinghuysen	Lewis (GA)
Brown, Corrine	Gallely	Lewis (KY)
Brown-Waite,	Garrett (NJ)	Linder
Ginny	Gerlach	Lipinski
Burgess	Gibbons	LoBiondo
Burton (IN)	Gilchrest	Lofgren, Zoe
Butterfield	Gillmor	Lowe
Buyer	Gingrey	Lucas
Calvert	Gohmert	Lungren, Daniel
Camp (MI)	Gonzalez	E.
Campbell (CA)	Goode	Lynch
Cannon	Goodlatte	Mack
Cantor	Gordon	Maloney
Capito	Granger	Manzullo
Capps	Graves	Marchant
Capuano	Green (WI)	Markey
Cardoza	Green, Al	Marshall
Carnahan	Green, Gene	Matheson
Carson	Grijalva	Matsui
Carter	Gutierrez	McCarthy
Case	Gutknecht	McCaul (TX)
Castle	Hall	McCollum (MN)
Chabot	Harman	McCotter
Chandler	Harris	McCrery
Chocoma	Hart	McDermott
Clay	Hastings (FL)	McGovern
Cleaver	Hastings (WA)	McHenry
Clyburn	Hayes	McHugh
Coble	Hefley	McIntyre
Cole (OK)	Hensarling	McKeon
Conaway	Herger	McKinney
Conyers	Hersteth	McMorris
Cooper	Higgins	McNulty
Costa	Hinchey	Meehan
Costello	Hinojosa	Meek (FL)
Cramer	Hobson	Meeks (NY)
Crenshaw	Hoekstra	Melancon
Crowley	Holden	Mica
Cubin	Holt	Michaud
Cuellar	Honda	Millender-
Culberson	Hooley	McDonald
Davis (AL)	Hostettler	Miller (FL)

Miller (MI)	Ramstad	Solis
Miller (NC)	Rangel	Souder
Miller, Gary	Regula	Spratt
Miller, George	Rehberg	Stark
Mollohan	Reichert	Strickland
Moore (KS)	Renzi	Sullivan
Moore (WI)	Reyes	Sweeney
Moran (KS)	Rogers (AL)	Tancredo
Murphy	Rogers (KY)	Tanner
Murtha	Rogers (MI)	Tauscher
Musgrave	Rohrabacher	Taylor (MS)
Myrick	Ros-Lehtinen	Taylor (NC)
Nadler	Ross	Terry
Napolitano	Rothman	Thomas
Neal (MA)	Roybal-Allard	Thompson (CA)
Neugebauer	Royce	Thompson (MS)
Ney	Ruppersberger	Thornberry
Northup	Rush	Tiahrt
Norwood	Ryan (OH)	Tiberi
Nunes	Ryan (WI)	Tierney
Nussle	Ryun (KS)	Towns
Oberstar	Sabo	Turner
Obey	Salazar	Udall (CO)
Oliver	Sánchez, Linda	Udall (NM)
Ortiz	T.	Upton
Osborne	Sanchez, Loretta	Van Hollen
Otter	Sanders	Velázquez
Owens	Saxton	Visclosky
Oxley	Schakowsky	Walden (OR)
Pallone	Schiff	Walsh
Pascarell	Schmidt	Wamp
Pastor	Schwartz (PA)	Wasserman
Paul	Schwarz (MI)	Schultz
Payne	Scott (GA)	Waters
Pearce	Scott (VA)	Watson
Pelosi	Sensenbrenner	Watt
Pence	Serrano	Waxman
Peterson (MN)	Sessions	Weiner
Peterson (PA)	Shaw	Weldon (FL)
Petri	Shays	Weldon (PA)
Pitts	Sherman	Weller
Platts	Shimkus	Westmoreland
Poe	Shuster	Wexler
Pombo	Simmons	Whitfield
Pomeroy	Simpson	Wicker
Porter	Skelton	Wilson (NM)
Price (GA)	Slaughter	Wilson (SC)
Price (NC)	Smith (NJ)	Woolsey
Pryce (OH)	Smith (TX)	Young (AK)
Putnam	Smith (WA)	Young (FL)
Radanovich	Snyder	
Rahall	Sodrel	

NOT VOTING—23

Berman	Hoyer	Shadegg
Cardin	Kennedy (RI)	Sherwood
Cummings	Kolbe	Stearns
Davis, Tom	Larson (CT)	Stupak
Evans	Leach	Wolf
Flake	Moran (VA)	Wu
Franks (AZ)	Pickering	Wynn
Hayworth	Reynolds	

□ 1217

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I was unavoidably detained and missed three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 160; "no" on rollcall vote No. 161; and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 162.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 5386, and that I may include tabular and extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 818 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5386.

The Chair designates the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) as chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from New York (Mr. KUHLM) to assume the chair temporarily.

□ 1220

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5386) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, with Mr. KUHLM (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, today we bring to the House floor the 2007 budget for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies. This bill provides \$25.9 billion, which is \$418 million above the budget request and \$145 million below the 2006 enacted level.

It has been a challenging year and difficult choices were made to stay within our allocation for the bill. In keeping with long-standing tradition, this bill has been developed as a bipartisan effort and focuses funding increases on the operations of our national parks and other public lands; Indian programs, including health and education; forest health; and preservation of our national cultural treasures.

In order to provide these increases, there are decreases to many grants programs and there are limited new construction and land acquisition projects. In most cases, these choices are not a reflection on the effectiveness of the programs being reduced, but rather reflect the committee's belief that mission-essential Federal programs like the national parks, National Forest and Native American programs must be the number one priority.

While we appreciate input from the administration each year, we have made some significant changes to the request, including restoring funds for Johnson O'Malley Education Grants in the Bureau of Indian Affairs; restoring funds for the operations of 32 urban Indian health clinics; restoring funds for PILT; restoring funds for Superfund remediation and environmental education, and research in EPA; restoring funds for forest health and forest road maintenance; and restoring funds for National Heritage Areas and for U.S. Geological Survey mineral assessments.

We have provided significant increases to support the operations of our national parks and the Indian Health Service, and we fully fund the National Fire Plan.

One area that deserves particular mention, in which we have supported

the administration's budget proposal, is the energy area. In the Bureau of Land Management, there are significant increases that will enable us to expedite the permitting of on-shore oil and gas exploration and development on Federal lands. In EPA, we were unable to provide all the requested increases that were associated with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, but we have provided significant increases, including \$26 million for the National Clean Diesel Initiative.

This committee, and this member in particular, soundly rejects the administration's proposal to sell National Forest lands throughout the country, and we think this will not be happening.

We have eliminated Stateside Land and Water Grants, the Forest Service Economic Action Program, the BLM

Rural Fire Program, and the Asia Pacific Partnership in EPA.

This is a responsible bill that is focused on protecting Federal lands, Indian programs, environmental programs, cultural programs, and other programs under the committee's jurisdiction. I urge you to support this bill.

The Ways and Means Committee has recommended that we make a technical change in the appropriations language for the Leaking Underground Storage Tank program in EPA, and we will do that in the final conference agreement.

Mr. Chairman, I include for the RECORD a table detailing the various accounts in the bill. I want to thank our staff, and my colleague, Mr. DICKS, and his staff for the fine work that they have done in preparing the bill and the cooperation they have shown.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 2007 (H.R.5386)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR					
Bureau of Land Management					
Management of lands and resources.....	848,132	863,244	867,738	+19,606	+4,494
Rescission (P.L. 109-148).....	-500	---	---	+500	---
Wildland fire management:					
Preparedness.....	268,839	274,801	274,801	+5,962	---
Fire suppression operations.....	230,721	257,041	257,041	+26,320	---
Other operations.....	255,726	237,718	237,411	-18,315	-307
Subtotal.....	755,286	769,560	769,253	+13,967	-307
Construction.....	11,750	6,476	11,476	-274	+5,000
Land acquisition.....	8,621	8,767	3,067	-5,554	-5,700
Oregon and California grant lands.....	108,451	112,408	111,408	+2,957	-1,000
Range improvements (indefinite).....	10,000	10,000	10,000	---	---
Service charges, deposits, & forfeitures (indefinite).....	25,483	25,483	25,483	---	---
Offsetting fee collections.....	-25,483	-25,483	-25,483	---	---
Miscellaneous trust funds (indefinite).....	12,405	12,405	12,405	---	---
Total, Bureau of Land Management.....	1,754,145	1,782,860	1,785,347	+31,202	+2,487
United States Fish and Wildlife Service					
Resource management.....	994,037	995,594	1,016,669	+22,632	+21,075
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-148).....	7,398	---	---	-7,398	---
Construction.....	45,216	19,722	39,756	-5,460	+20,034
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-148).....	30,000	---	---	-30,000	---
Land acquisition.....	27,990	27,079	19,751	-8,239	-7,328
Landowner incentive program.....	23,667	24,400	15,000	-8,667	-9,400
Rescission (P.L. 109-148).....	-2,000	---	---	+2,000	---
Private stewardship grants.....	7,277	9,400	7,000	-277	-2,400
Cooperative endangered species conservation fund.....	81,001	80,001	80,507	-494	+506
Rescission (P.L. 109-148).....	-1,000	---	---	+1,000	---
National wildlife refuge fund.....	14,202	10,811	14,202	---	+3,391
North American wetlands conservation fund.....	39,412	41,646	36,646	-2,766	-5,000
Neotropical migratory birds conservation fund.....	3,941	---	4,000	+59	+4,000
Multinational species conservation fund.....	6,404	8,217	6,057	-347	-2,160
State and tribal wildlife grants.....	67,492	74,666	50,000	-17,492	-24,666
Total, United States Fish and Wildlife Service..	1,345,037	1,291,536	1,289,588	-55,449	-1,948
National Park Service					
Operation of the national park system.....	1,718,415	1,742,317	1,754,317	+35,902	+12,000
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-148).....	525	---	---	-525	---
United States Park Police.....	80,213	84,775	84,775	+4,562	---
National recreation and preservation.....	54,156	33,261	47,161	-6,995	+13,900
Historic preservation fund.....	72,172	71,858	58,658	-13,514	-13,200
Construction and major maintenance.....	313,858	229,269	229,934	-83,924	+665
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-148).....	19,000	---	---	-19,000	---
Land and water conservation fund (rescission of contract authority).....	-30,000	-30,000	-30,000	---	---
Land acquisition and state assistance.....	63,954	24,343	29,995	-33,959	+5,652
Use of prior year balances.....	-17,000	---	---	+17,000	---
Total, National Park Service (net).....	2,275,293	2,155,823	2,174,840	-100,453	+19,017
United States Geological Survey					
Surveys, investigations, and research.....	961,675	944,760	991,447	+29,772	+46,687
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-148).....	8,970	---	---	-8,970	---
Total, United States Geological Survey.....	970,645	944,760	991,447	+20,802	+46,687

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 2007 (H.R.5386)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Minerals Management Service					
Royalty and offshore minerals management.....	274,121	285,381	286,226	+12,105	+845
Use of receipts.....	-122,730	-128,730	-128,730	-6,000	---
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-148).....	16,000	---	---	-16,000	---
Oil spill research.....	6,903	6,903	6,903	---	---
Total, Minerals Management Service.....	174,294	163,554	164,399	-9,895	+845
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement					
Regulation and technology.....	108,810	112,109	112,109	+3,299	---
Receipts from performance bond forfeitures (indefinite).....	99	100	100	+1	---
Subtotal.....	108,909	112,209	112,209	+3,300	---
Abandoned mine reclamation fund (definite, trust fund)	185,248	185,936	185,936	+688	---
Total, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.....	294,157	298,145	298,145	+3,988	---
Bureau of Indian Affairs					
Operation of Indian programs.....	1,962,190	1,966,594	1,973,403	+11,213	+6,809
Construction.....	271,582	215,049	215,799	-55,783	+750
Indian land and water claim settlements and miscellaneous payments to Indians.....	34,243	33,946	39,213	+4,970	+5,267
Indian guaranteed loan program account.....	6,255	6,262	6,262	+7	---
Total, Bureau of Indian Affairs.....	2,274,270	2,221,851	2,234,677	-39,593	+12,826
Departmental Offices					
Insular Affairs:					
Assistance to Territories.....	48,440	46,641	49,841	+1,401	+3,200
Northern Marianas.....	27,720	27,720	27,720	---	---
Subtotal.....	76,160	74,361	77,561	+1,401	+3,200
Compact of Free Association.....	3,313	2,862	3,362	+49	+500
Mandatory payments.....	2,000	2,000	2,000	---	---
Subtotal.....	5,313	4,862	5,362	+49	+500
Total, Insular Affairs.....	81,473	79,223	82,923	+1,450	+3,700
Departmental management.....	130,238	118,845	118,303	-11,935	-542
Payments in lieu of taxes.....	232,528	198,000	228,000	-4,528	+30,000
Central hazardous materials fund.....	9,710	9,923	9,923	+213	---
Office of the Solicitor.....	54,624	56,755	56,755	+2,131	---
Office of Inspector General.....	38,541	40,699	39,688	+1,147	-1,011
Office of Special Trustee for American Indians					
Federal trust programs.....	188,774	185,036	150,036	-38,738	-35,000
Indian land consolidation.....	34,006	59,449	34,006	---	-25,443
Total, Office of Special Trustee for American Indians.....	222,780	244,485	184,042	-38,738	-60,443

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 2007 (H.R.5386)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Natural resource damage assessment fund.....	6,016	6,109	6,109	+93	---
Total, Departmental Offices.....	775,910	754,039	725,743	-50,167	-28,296
=====					
Total, title I, Department of the Interior.....	9,863,751	9,612,568	9,664,186	-199,565	+51,618
Appropriations.....	(9,815,358)	(9,642,568)	(9,694,186)	(-121,172)	(+51,618)
Emergency appropriations.....	(81,893)	---	---	(-81,893)	---
Rescission.....	(-33,500)	(-30,000)	(-30,000)	(+3,500)	---
=====					
TITLE II - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY					
Science and technology.....	730,810	788,274	808,044	+77,234	+19,770
(By transfer from Hazardous substance superfund)...	(30,156)	(27,811)	(30,011)	(-145)	(+2,200)
Environmental programs and management.....	2,346,711	2,306,617	2,336,442	-10,269	+29,825
Office of Inspector General.....	36,904	35,100	35,100	-1,804	---
(By transfer from Hazardous substance superfund)...	(13,337)	(13,316)	(13,316)	(-21)	---
Buildings and facilities.....	39,626	39,816	39,816	+190	---
Hazardous substance superfund.....	1,242,074	1,258,955	1,256,855	+14,781	-2,100
Transfer to Office of Inspector General.....	(-13,337)	(-13,316)	(-13,316)	(+21)	---
Transfer to Science and Technology.....	(-30,156)	(-27,811)	(-30,011)	(+145)	(-2,200)
Leaking underground storage tank program.....	71,953	72,759	72,759	+806	---
Emergency appropriations (P.L.109-148).....	8,000	---	---	-8,000	---
Oil spill response.....	15,629	16,506	16,506	+877	---
Pesticide registration fund.....	15,000	10,000	10,000	-5,000	---
Pesticide registration fees.....	-15,000	-10,000	-10,000	+5,000	---
State and tribal assistance grants.....	2,100,634	1,708,264	1,884,764	-215,870	+176,500
Categorical grants.....	1,113,075	1,089,184	1,122,584	+9,509	+33,400
Subtotal, State and tribal assistance grants....	3,213,709	2,797,448	3,007,348	-206,361	+209,900
Rescissions (various EPA accounts).....	-80,000	---	---	+80,000	---
=====					
Total, title II, Environmental Protection Agency.....	7,625,416	7,315,475	7,572,870	-52,546	+257,395
Appropriations.....	(7,697,416)	(7,315,475)	(7,572,870)	(-124,546)	(+257,395)
Emergency appropriations.....	(8,000)	---	---	(-8,000)	---
Rescissions.....	(-80,000)	---	---	(+80,000)	---
(Transfer out).....	(-43,493)	(-41,127)	(-43,327)	(+166)	(-2,200)
(By transfer).....	(43,493)	(41,127)	(43,327)	(-166)	(+2,200)
=====					

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 2007 (H.R.5386)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request

TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES					
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE					
Forest Service					
Forest and rangeland research.....	277,711	267,791	280,318	+2,607	+12,527
State and private forestry.....	278,966	244,410	228,608	-50,358	-15,802
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-148).....	30,000	---	---	-30,000	---
National forest system.....	1,415,646	1,398,066	1,445,659	+30,013	+47,593
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-148).....	20,000	---	---	-20,000	---
Wildland fire management:					
Preparedness.....	660,705	655,887	655,887	-4,818	---
Fire suppression operations.....	690,186	746,176	741,477	+51,291	-4,699
Other operations.....	395,200	366,132	413,202	+18,002	+47,070
Subtotal.....	1,746,091	1,768,195	1,810,566	+64,475	+42,371
Capital improvement and maintenance.....	431,334	382,601	411,025	-20,309	+28,424
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-148).....	7,000	---	---	-7,000	---
Land acquisition.....	41,772	25,075	7,500	-34,272	-17,575
Acquisition of lands for national forests, special acts.....	1,053	1,053	1,053	---	---
Acquisition of lands to complete land exchanges (indefinite).....	231	231	231	---	---
Range betterment fund (indefinite).....	2,920	3,932	3,932	+1,012	---
Gifts, donations and bequests for forest and rangeland research.....	63	63	63	---	---
Management of national forest lands for subsistence uses.....	4,975	5,311	5,311	+336	---
Total, Forest Service.....	4,257,762	4,096,728	4,194,266	-63,496	+97,538
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES					
Indian Health Service					
Indian health services:					
Non-contract services.....	2,174,802	2,268,241	2,275,877	+101,075	+7,636
Contract care.....	499,562	536,259	536,259	+36,697	---
Catastrophic health emergency fund.....	17,735	18,000	18,000	+265	---
Total, Indian health services.....	2,692,099	2,822,500	2,830,136	+138,037	+7,636
Indian health facilities.....	353,211	347,287	363,573	+10,362	+16,286
Total, Indian Health Service.....	3,045,310	3,169,787	3,193,709	+148,399	+23,922
National Institute of Health					
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences...	79,108	78,414	79,414	+306	+1,000
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry					
Toxic substances and environmental public health.....	74,905	75,004	76,754	+1,849	+1,750
Total, Department of Health and Human Services..	3,199,323	3,323,205	3,349,877	+150,554	+26,672
OTHER RELATED AGENCIES					
Executive Office of the President					
Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality.....	2,677	2,627	2,627	-50	---
Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board					
Salaries and expenses.....	9,064	9,108	9,208	+144	+100

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 2007 (H.R.5386)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation					
Salaries and expenses.....	8,474	5,940	5,940	-2,534	---
Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development					
Payment to the Institute.....	6,207	6,703	6,703	+496	---
Smithsonian Institution					
Salaries and expenses.....	516,568	537,394	517,094	+526	-20,300
Facilities capital.....	98,529	107,000	107,000	+8,471	---
Total, Smithsonian Institution.....	615,097	644,394	624,094	+8,997	-20,300
National Gallery of Art					
Salaries and expenses.....	95,179	101,794	101,794	+6,615	---
Repair, restoration and renovation of buildings.....	15,962	14,949	14,949	-1,013	---
Total, National Gallery of Art.....	111,141	116,743	116,743	+5,602	---
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts					
Operations and maintenance.....	17,538	18,909	18,909	+1,371	---
Construction.....	12,809	19,800	19,800	+6,991	---
Total, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.....	30,347	38,709	38,709	+8,362	---
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars					
Salaries and expenses.....	9,065	9,438	9,438	+373	---
National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities					
National Endowment for the Arts					
Grants and administration.....	124,406	124,412	124,412	+6	---
National Endowment for the Humanities					
Grants and administration.....	125,728	126,049	126,049	+321	---
Matching grants.....	15,221	14,906	14,906	-315	---
Total, National Endowment for the Humanities....	140,949	140,955	140,955	+6	---
Total, National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.....	265,355	265,367	265,367	+12	---
Commission of Fine Arts					
Salaries and expenses.....	1,865	1,951	1,951	+86	---
National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs					
Grants.....	7,143	6,534	6,534	-609	---
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation					
Salaries and expenses.....	4,789	5,118	5,118	+329	---
National Capital Planning Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	8,123	8,265	7,623	-500	-642
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum					
Holocaust Memorial Museum.....	42,150	43,786	43,415	+1,265	-371
Presidio Trust					

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 2007 (H.R.5386)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Presidio trust fund.....	19,706	19,256	19,256	-450	---
White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance					
Operations.....	247	200	200	-47	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, title III, related agencies.....	8,598,535	8,604,072	8,707,069	+108,534	+102,997
Appropriations.....	(8,541,535)	(8,604,072)	(8,707,069)	(+165,534)	(+102,997)
Emergency appropriations.....	(57,000)	---	---	(-57,000)	---
TITLE IV - GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Across-the-board cut (.476%) (rescission) (Sec. 439)..	-589	---	---	+589	---
Across-the-board cut (1.0%) (rescission) (Sec. 601)..	-1,179	---	---	+1,179	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Grand total.....	26,085,934	25,532,115	25,944,125	-141,809	+412,010
Appropriations.....	(26,052,541)	(25,562,115)	(25,974,125)	(-78,416)	(+412,010)
Emergency appropriations.....	(146,893)	---	---	(-146,893)	---
Rescissions.....	(-113,500)	(-30,000)	(-30,000)	(+83,500)	---
(Transfer out).....	(-43,493)	(-41,127)	(-43,327)	(+166)	(-2,200)
(By transfer).....	(43,493)	(41,127)	(43,327)	(-166)	(+2,200)
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, at the outset, I want to thank Interior Subcommittee Chairman CHARLES TAYLOR and his staff for the fairness with which the minority has been treated in the development of this bill. We have been consulted throughout the process. As a result, the bill reflects our input in a number of places.

From a process point of view, this bill is a model for how the majority and minority should work together to produce legislation. Unfortunately, as Chairman TAYLOR and I have discussed throughout the year, a fair process cannot produce a good bill when the Interior Subcommittee is given an inadequate allocation. What we were given to work with for 2007 is, once again, inadequate.

The \$25.9 billion allowed by the full Appropriations Committee for Interior and environment programs is essentially a hard freeze at the FY 2006 enacted level. This is roughly \$800 million below the level necessary to maintain current services for the programs funded by the Interior Subcommittee.

The result is a bill in which our parks, refuges and forests are again to be squeezed to cover fixed costs. It means funding for clean water and clean air programs at the EPA are going to be substantially reduced. It means critical new investments requested by the President in areas like homeland security and diesel emissions reductions are dramatically reduced or in some cases not funded at all. Assistance to our States with their environmental and conservation programs is dramatically reduced.

It means the very real problem of global warming will not be adequately addressed. And I assume that when consideration of the bill is completed, the provision approved by the Appropriations Committee acknowledging the existence of global climate change and the human involvement in that change will no longer be part of it. I will talk about my disappointment over that later.

I won't go through all the numbers today, but I think it is important that Members are aware of some of the most troubling recommendations. Despite facility maintenance backlogs of at least \$15 billion in our parks, refuges and national forests, funding for construction projects throughout the bill are cut by \$216 million below last year and more than \$400 million below the level in 2001. There is no funding at all for new schools on Indian reservations. Park Service construction is cut by \$100 million.

In most cases, this bill has only been able to fund 70 percent of the increases mandated by law for Federal pay and for other fixed costs. As our recent GAO report on the parks made clear, this inevitably will mean cutbacks in staff and cutbacks in visitor services for people who visit our parks, refuges and other Federal facilities. Staffing in

our wildlife refuges has been cut by more than 700 FTEs over the past 5 years.

Funding for the Clean Water Revolving Fund is cut by another \$200 million below the 2006 level. Over the last 3 years, the Clean Water Program, which EPA cites as one of its most effective, has been reduced by \$662 million, or nearly 50 percent. This means either that essential infrastructure repairs for this country's aging water infrastructure won't occur, or that local water and sewer rates will increase as communities pick up the Federal share of these costs.

Other State grant programs broadly supported in the House are cut below the current rate. This includes a \$14 million cut in PILT, as well as a significant reduction in State Wildlife grants and the North American Wetlands programs. Stateside Conservation grants are completely eliminated. Over the past 5 years, assistance to States for these environmental or conservation programs have been reduced by more than \$750 million.

Funding for Federal land acquisition and to help States preserve open spaces is cut by \$98 million in this bill and by more than \$400 million since 2001. Funding in this area has been cut by more than 80 percent in the last 4 years. These are not vast stretches of new land for the Federal Government to manage. Unfunded acquisitions include smaller parcels in icon parks such as Valley Forge, Grand Teton, and Acadia. These purchases are the highest priorities of the Bush administration and are ready to go in 2007 if we had funding.

I want to express my strong support for the cuts totaling \$20 million to the Smithsonian contained in this bill, which Chairman TAYLOR and I believe is the best way for the Interior Subcommittee to express our extreme displeasure with recent actions taken by the Smithsonian. This situation involves the recently negotiated commercial venture with Showtime, the details of which have been kept from Congress by the Smithsonian.

□ 1230

On a more positive note, and one our constituents who visits D.C. certainly will appreciate, the bill makes an important down payment towards the much needed improvement of the infrastructure at the National Zoo. This will be a multiyear task to upgrade the zoo's facilities to a level where they should be. In a smart move, tackling the most important tasks first, this bill has placed significant emphasis on replacing and upgrading the fire protection and suppression systems.

As I mentioned earlier, Chairman TAYLOR and I have discussed previously the problems with the Interior subcommittee repeatedly being given inadequate allocations to meet the needs of this country in terms of taking care of our Federal lands and protecting the environment. This is not a pretty picture.

Mr. Chairman, I hope we can improve the bill as it moves forward, but this is not a bill in my opinion which adequately addresses our country's needs.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5386, the Department of Interior Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007.

Mr. Chairman, I commend the distinguished chairman, Mr. TAYLOR, and his committee for including funding in the Indian Health Service facilities budget for joint venture projects. I believe the Service should take advantage of opportunities like the joint venture program to leverage tribal dollars with Federal dollars.

In my State of Oklahoma, I am pleased to note that the Chickasaw Nation has pledged an unprecedented \$135,000 million in tribal funds to design, construct, and equip a new state-of-the-art medical center to meet the needs of its people, its community, and neighboring tribes.

Congress and the Indian Health Service should look favorably upon tribes willing and able to make those investments back into their community and provide the necessary supplemental resources.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I urge the support of H.R. 5386.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, the majority party believes that if we just keep drilling for more gas and oil then our energy crisis will be over. Unfortunately, they are not looking for a solution to our energy crisis and a solution to our rising gas prices. They are just looking short term for false security solutions that ultimately line the pockets of big oil companies.

Mr. Chairman, that is why we are here today discussing offshore oil drilling instead of promoting efficient and renewable energy policies. The people that I am fortunate to represent in Marin and Sonoma Counties north of San Francisco, across the Golden Gate Bridge, do understand. They get it. The coast of my district is one of the most biologically productive regions in the entire world, and it would be threatened, threatened by oil and gas exploration if this bill passes as is.

For this reason, I have introduced a bill to extend the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries along the entire coast of Sonoma to protect it from offshore drilling threats.

The coastal communities in my district rely on tourism and fishing, industries that would be severely hurt if offshore drilling was permitted. If you were to visit this beautiful stretch of coast you would understand why, and you would know that we must protect it.

Mr. Chairman, the people who live in my district strongly oppose offshore drilling. They understand that we need an energy policy that focuses on investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, not on oil rigs and the endless depletion of our natural resources.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Capps-Davis amendment.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlemen from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART).

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Chairman, first I want to thank the chairman for the incredible job that he has done on this bill. It is one of the toughest pieces of legislation that comes before us every year, and he has done an incredible job. His staff is always willing to listen to all of us and put up with all of us, I thank them as well, and they know who I am referring to.

But I do need to say, Mr. Chairman, that there was an amendment put on during this process that I think would have, could have a devastating effect on the State of Florida, and that it would potentially allow for the drilling of natural gas, potentially up to just 3 miles off the coast of Florida.

And I do not need to remind everybody how important tourism is for the economy of Florida, \$57 billion to the economy. We depend on that environment being pristine. There is a consensus in Florida, among the people in Florida and just about all of the elected officials of Florida, that this could be devastating for the State of Florida.

There will be an amendment by Mr. PUTNAM and others to try to remedy that. I will support that. I want to thank the chairman and staff again for always listening to us, and we hope that this great bill could be improved by taking out that part that can be very devastating to Florida.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlemen from Florida (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I would like to further elaborate on the drilling issue that has been discussed by the last two speakers, Democrat and Republican.

Mr. Chairman, since 1981, this Congress has included language in this Interior spending bill that says that we draw a line as far as the extent to which we are willing to risk oil spills off the coast of Florida and off the coast of the United States in return for drilling. It has been a matter of balance.

This bill today contains a provision that repeals this language, that has been there since 1981 and, as was mentioned earlier, will allow the possibility of leases for oil or gas as close as 3 miles off the east coast of Florida and 9 miles off the west coast of Florida, my home.

The risk of a spill to the State of Florida is devastating, and to be perfectly honest, it is entirely uncertain to all of us what the risk is. But it is a risk that we do not want to accept in Florida, particularly because the quantities are so modest in return as far as what the Nation needs.

Now the language in the bill, which I would like to discuss, it is important to point out what it does and what it does not do. It gives the White House the authority to issue leases should it choose to do so right off the coast of Florida.

The language says, it is only for natural gas. But if you look at the record, including the President's own leader in the Department of Interior, he says when you go to drill you get what you get. If you make an investment as a company to drill for gas and you get oil, you are going to take oil. So this is about having an oil spill as well as gas.

Secondly, there has been a representation made that this drilling off the coast of Florida and other parts of the United States is going to lower the price at the pump. With respect to Florida, nothing can be further from the truth. The representation is made that if we convert massive amounts of our cars and trucks to natural gas, then this provision will lower the price at the pump.

The price at the pump is the problem with the price of oil. This provision is not going to help deal with the Nation's needs as far as oil. It could produce enough oil to generate a spill off the coast of Florida, but it is not going to lower the price at the pump.

Let me finally just say, reasonable people can disagree on where this line should be drawn. But the way to do that is through hearings around the country, in the State of Florida. We want to be part of the solution in terms of meeting the Nation's energy needs.

Mr. Chairman, I do not question for a minute the motives behind the sponsor of this bill, but there is a right way and a wrong way to have this debate. The right way is to have an open and honest discussion in the committee, around the country. Come to Florida. Our beaches are not just a State treasure, they are a national treasure.

But the wrong way to do it is this last one, to change a balance that has existed since 1981 is to have a very short debate and to simply erase what Congress has had in place for decades through other energy crises and subject the State of Florida and other parts of the country to the possibility of an oil spill that could be enormously devastating, not just to our environment, not just to our economy, but to our way of life.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the Members of Congress will choose to take a responsible approach to this very important issue. This is not just about Florida. It is about coastlines that are pristine in terms of the entire country as well as the rest of the coastline.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I also want to point out that this restriction, which has been in the law since 1981, was also in the President's budget. This was part of the President's budget.

So we are not only overturning this congressional restriction, but we are also doing it in the face of the Bush administration's budget.

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time. I do not think anybody on the floor of this Congress is going to accuse the President of being bashful about drilling. He does not support this drilling right off the coast of Florida.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I thank Chairman TAYLOR as well as his excellent staff for allowing all of the Members to participate in the drafting of this amendment and a debate on this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, there is one provision that is very harmful to my home State of Florida. Along with my Florida Members, we will be fighting the Peterson language that is attached to this bill which will allow offshore drilling just 3 miles off our Nation's coastlines.

The Peterson language would overturn a 25-year bipartisan moratorium on such drilling. It is bad for the environment, it is bad for national security, and it is not the answer to our pressing energy needs.

Three miles. That is the distance in which drilling structures could appear off of Florida's shoreline. These structures could blight the coast, damage sensitive habitat, undermine our State's economic future. Last year alone, 85 million people visited Florida, many to experience the national beauty of our sandy beaches and marine habitats.

Offshore drilling would introduce toxins and pollutants into the ocean environment. The Florida delegation will unite to promote the Putnam amendment later today to strip the Peterson language from the bill.

Mr. Chairman, I am so proud to represent the national treasures of the Florida Keys. The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary is home to thousands of plants and animal species as well as the world's third largest living coral reef system. Drilling would threaten the health of this national marine sanctuary and undermine our efforts to foster and restore sensitive areas.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues' help in making sure that we can protect Florida's coastline and our Nation's ecosystem by adopting the Putnam amendment and rejecting the Peterson language.

Mr. Chairman, I thank again Chairman TAYLOR for his time and for this opportunity.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlemen from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE).

(Mr. ABERCROMBIE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Chairman, it is clear that the principal issue that is going to be before us as we deal with the overall bill is going to be the lifting of the moratorium, the congressional moratorium with respect to drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf.

As a supporter of a bill that Mr. PETERSON and I hoped to have heard in the Resources Committee that will deal with the issue in a much broader scope, I hope I can bring some level of reality here to what this is all about.

Mr. Chairman, it is the quite true, as has been mentioned by previous speakers who want to see this amendment taken out of the overall bill, that 25 years ago the question of drilling 3 miles off of Florida or California or anywhere was an issue, and the reason that the moratorium was put in was to prevent that from happening. But that was 25 years ago, and now the issue is up for reconsideration, not to drill 3 miles, but whether there is going to be any drilling at all and whether it should take place and under what circumstances, given what has happened over the past 25 years.

□ 1245

The reason the Peterson amendment is in the overall bill is to give us the opportunity to start that discussion. There will be no drilling off of Florida or anyplace else if we pass this bill. It just gives us the opportunity to begin a discussion as to whether we should reconsider that position and where it should happen. That is what is at issue here, lifting the congressional moratorium. There is still a Presidential moratorium against it; there is still a 5-year plan that has to be implemented. We need to consider whether we want to continue with that particular approach.

So what we are asking for is every Member here to be able to vote his or her own views on whether we can have a discussion on this issue. Our problem, Mr. Chairman, is, particularly for those of us who are Democrats, that we are in the grip now of an assault by an environmental Taliban out there that has absolute revealed wisdom as to what is involved with us trying to achieve an independent energy source that we can have as an alternative energy source right now in our country, and not be in the grip of people around the world who wish us ill with regard to energy.

All we are asking for is the opportunity to be able to discuss this issue. If we defeat the Peterson amendment or have it taken out and pass the Capps-Putnam amendment and whatever other amendments are associated with it, we won't have the chance to even begin a discussion about whether natural gas is an alternative inde-

pendent source of energy that we need to have now.

That is what our request is. Let us have this discussion. Keep the Peterson amendment in the bill so we can begin the discussion and have the hearings that Mr. DAVIS and others indicated they would like to have. I agree with them. I think Members know me for a long time, I would never try to embarrass somebody else or put somebody else in a position of saying, look, I am right and you are wrong and I have the only position possible. That is not what it is about. We need to have this discussion. Let us defeat the Capps-Putnam amendment so that we can have this discussion. Mr. Chairman, I hope that everybody understands this is not a Democratic-Republican issue; this is an American issue about independent energy resources for this Nation.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

Mr. SAXTON. First, let me thank the gentleman for yielding. I would like to engage the distinguished chairman in a colloquy regarding funding for an important conservation project in New Jersey.

Mr. Chairman, the State of New Jersey has only 3 percent of its real estate in Federal land ownership. It is also the most densely populated State in the country, as everyone knows. From national parks to wildlife areas, our investment in conservation, preservation, wildlife, and recreation pay tremendous dividends every day. The coastal areas of our Nation are under extreme pressure from development.

The areas surrounding the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge is no exception. It is vital that we assist our State and local governments in true Federal/State/local partnerships to purchase tracts of land like the ones surrounding the Forsythe refuge boundary, environmentally valuable land that can be bought now but most likely will be lost permanently for public use in the very near future because of development.

I appreciate the challenges that the subcommittee faced in this very difficult budget year. However, I am also hopeful that, Mr. Chairman, you will recognize the importance of this project. We have a responsibility to our children to ensure that green spaces remain, to provide clean air and water, and ample opportunities to enjoy wildlife and the great outdoors.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. I thank my colleague from New Jersey for bringing this important project to my attention. I will be pleased to consider this funding need, should additional funds become available in conference.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me

to speak on this bill, which should be one of the highlights of this congressional session, as it touches on things that are near and dear to the hearts of the people we represent: clean air, vast open space, environmental protection, investment in the arts, and the public lands that are so meaningful to people.

Mr. Chairman, there are important provisions in this bill that I do support. I appreciate the subcommittee funding for land acquisition in the Columbia River Gorge which will help us honor Federal commitments to communities in Oregon and Washington along a priceless national treasure. But, sadly, overall what should be a positive expression of our values, our hopes, and opportunities instead is a pattern of broken promises to our communities. It does represent a lost opportunity and is a symbol of the inability of those of us in Congress this year and the administration to match priorities with those of our constituents and, most importantly, for the future.

I appreciate the fact that there is dramatic underfunding through the budget allocation in the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, putting them in the hole from the beginning. I appreciate that the funding for land acquisition has been increased over the President's budget. But there is no reason that the billions of dollars set aside in the trust fund for the land and water conservation fund for that express purpose should not be used for those purposes.

Without the funding, communities will lose opportunities to purchase ecologically rich lands and waters, preserving and protecting recreation and conservation and historic values.

Remember the commitment that was made on this floor in the year 2000. I appreciate the leadership that Mr. DICKS exhibited with the committee working with Mr. YOUNG and Mr. MILLER in the CARA legislation, which passed overwhelmingly in the House, but a deal was brokered to establish funding levels. It is a point of great embarrassment that that commitment that was made to realize the overwhelming sense of what needs to happen in this body with CARA is being violated with this legislation today.

I hope that we will be able to, before we finish deliberations and move it through this session, go back and revisit it, because that commitment was made in good faith. I appreciate the work of the gentleman from Washington together with Mr. YOUNG and Mr. MILLER, Mr. OBEY I see here. We should not be violating that commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I do hope that we can focus more attention and have a healthy discussion on that in the course of these deliberations.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

Mr. GILCHREST. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to

thank the chairman of the Appropriations Committee for his work and the staff on the hard work they have done on this bill. Based on the limited allocation that they have received, I think they did a pretty good job.

Mr. Chairman, I want to speak specifically to a provision in the bill that I support, and I want to thank Mr. DICKS for putting the provision in the bill, and I want to thank the chairman for allowing it to stay in the bill.

Basically, the provision I would like to speak to is the sense of Congress in this bill that deals with the fact that this Congress should pay attention to, work with, and try to understand the increasing amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and what does that mean.

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, while it represents a tiny fraction of 1 percent of the whole atmosphere, is the chief gas that determines the heat balance; it determines the climate. And there is a scientific consensus that within the last 100 years, especially within the last 50 years, human activity burning fossil fuel has put huge amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, thus debilitating or changing that heat balance that we have known for a long time.

An example: 10,000 years ago, at the end of the Ice Age, it is calculated through analysis that there was 180 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. It took 10,000 years for that to go up 100 points, 10,000 years. Now, in the last 100, but especially in the last 50 years, it has risen 100 points. So what the natural environment did in 10,000 years, human activity burning fossil fuel has done in less than 100 years.

Now, what does that mean? Does that mean whoever talked about global warming is crying Chicken Little, the sky is falling; don't worry about it, nothing will happen? Or does it mean we need to pursue knowledge?

What it means is, that increase in carbon dioxide in less than 100 years that took the natural process 10,000 years to produce, this U.S. Congress, this government should pay attention to that issue. And the sense of Congress contained in this legislation should remain in this legislation.

I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. I want to commend the gentleman on his statement. This is not an issue that should be partisan in any way. We have had six former EPA administrators in both parties say that this is the issue of our time. A former Member, former Vice President of the United States, Al Gore, has made a national issue out of this. I would like the gentleman to repeat what he said about Greenland. I thought that was very dramatic. I would appreciate it. I think we have more Members now. If you would repeat that, I think that would be important to the debate.

Mr. GILCHREST. Greenland is an interesting place because you can go

back several hundred years. People were tracking the increasing or decreasing glacier ice cap. So there is a very accurate record. We saw some 20 years ago that the ice cap really significantly began to melt and about 20 cubic miles of ice was flowing into the North Atlantic. Today, that has increased to 53 cubic miles of ice cap on Greenland flowing in the form of water, melted water, into the North Atlantic. The rate we are going, we are going to lose the Greenland ice cap. When we do lose the Greenland ice cap, sea levels will rise 23 feet around the globe.

Mr. DICKS. I want that to be repeated: 23 feet. I want my colleagues from Florida who are sitting here on the floor to think about what that would mean in Florida, what that would mean in the coast of California, the coast of Washington.

Mr. GILCHREST. New York City. Boston.

Mr. DICKS. This could be a catastrophic event. Yet we are not even willing to have a sense of the Congress resolution that says that human activity may be part of the problem. I mean, we have got to wake up on this. It is time to wake up.

The former Vice President has been out making speeches all over the country. There was a movie which opened last night on this issue. This could be the issue of all time. If we don't get busy and start realizing we have got a role and a responsibility to play here, it may be too late. For every one of us who either has grandchildren, or may have grandchildren, we have got to think about this. What legacy are we leaving if we don't face up to this reality?

The authorizers simply haven't done it. That is why the chairman, I thought, was very kind to accept this amendment. But now I understand they are going to knock it out on a point of order. This is like putting your head in the sand. I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland, who is one of the more enlightened Members of this body, for all the facts that he has brought to this debate today. I hope somehow working together we can resurrect this at some future point. I would hope even that maybe the chairman of the Commerce Committee might rethink his opposition to this sense of the Congress resolution.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMANN of New York) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, 25 years ago, I stood at this very microphone at this very desk and offered the amendment that initiated the first Outer Continental Shelf moratorium dealing with drilling for oil and gas. Over the years, that 25-year period, working with industry, working with the Federal Government, working with the State government and working with the Congress, we have evolved a program that has worked. During that time we have opened up some of the areas for exploration and for drilling. During that time we have also bought back some of the leases that were environmentally threatening.

This amendment that was added in the appropriations committee, the so-called Peterson amendment, happened without any hearings on the part of the subcommittee, no hearings on the part of the appropriations committee, and now we are trying to do something about that, at least give us time to work with our own House committee that has been working diligently for the last 6 to 8 months on trying to come up with a proper type of moratorium.

We should not allow this language, the so-called Peterson amendment, to stay in this bill today. We should continue the work with the House committee that is already working on it and try to maintain the environmental protection that is so important to so many areas of the waters in and around the United States of America.

As I said, this moratorium has been here for 25 years. It has evolved during that time. It has worked extremely well. I believe that we should be very careful in changes that we might make and we shouldn't make them wholesale without definite thought and consideration.

□ 1300

I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. I want to commend the gentleman from Florida who has been a leader on this issue. We all know the sincerity of Congressman PETERSON on this issue. It is a very important issue. But I want to say, I agree with you. I think to do it in an appropriations bill, and especially when it is part of the President's budget and the plan, to me this isn't the right way to proceed. I realize that there is some history here but it is 25 years since this was done and I think this has worked very effectively. Let's try to work together to maintain this provision.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I thank the gentleman for his thoughts.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).